In response to the Office Action dated June 6, 2001 (Paper No. 20), please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 6 and 7.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 18 and 19, and add claim 22 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of these claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

1. (Twice Amended) An isolated DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-6 and 9-12, or a DNA which comprises a nucleotide sequence having an identity of 60% or more with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-6 or having an identity of 95% or more with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO:9-12.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

4. (Twice Amended) A method for detecting a mRNA whose expression level increases in leukocytes of IgA nephropathy patients as compared with those of healthy persons by Northern hybridization, comprising:

(a) isolating a total RNA from a sample;

(b) hybridizing with the DNA according to claim 1 or a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence identical to any continuous 10 to 50 residues in a nucleotide sequence selected from the nucleotide sequences consisting of complementary sequences of SEQ ID NO:1-6 as a probe; and

(d) detecting the mRNA hybridized with the probe.

5. (Twice Amended) An IgA nephropathy diagnostic agent comprising the DNA according to claim 1 or DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence identical to any continuous 10 to 50 residues in a nucleotide sequence selected from the nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-6 and 9-12 and complementary sequences to SEQ ID NO:1-6 and 9-12.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

18. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising the DNA according to claim 1 and a diagnostic acceptable carrier.

19. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising the DNA according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.

22. (New) A method for detecting a mRNA whose expression level increases in leukocytes of IgA nephropathy patients as compared with those of healthy persons by RT-PCR, comprising:

(a) isolating a total RNA from a sample;

(b) synthesizing a cDNA from the RNA; and

(c) amplifying and detecting a DNA fragment by PCR using a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence identical to any continuous 10 to 50 residues in a nucleotide sequence selected from the nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-6 and 9-12 and a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence identical to any continuos 10 to 50 residues in a nucleotide sequence selected from the nucleotide sequences consisting of complementary sequences of SEQ ID NO:1-6 and 9-12 as primers and the cDNA as a template.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended in order to recite the present invention with the specificity required by statute. Additionally, Claims 18 and 19 have been amended to better depend from their antecedent claims. Additionally, new Claim 22 is presented in order to more specifically another preferred embodiment of the present invention. The subject matter of the amendment is found in the specification as filed, *inter alia*, at page 7, lines 14-20, page 9, lines 15-22, page 33, lines 19-21, from page 33 line 19 to page 34, line 10 and Example 2 from page 43, line 9 to page 49, line 4. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.